

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. (currently amended) A method for controlling quality comprising the steps of:
  - (1) measuring quality of a plurality of different types of materials from a plurality of suppliers at a first incoming quality control department of a first factory;
  - (2) establishing a supplier database for entry of information for each supplier comprising: identification, the types of material measured, the quantities received, and the quantities rejected; and
  - (3) determining from a supplier identification and type of material at a second incoming quality control department of a second factory the quality of the type of material from the supplier.
2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein in the step (1), measuring the quality includes determining: a material category number, the material type, the supplier code, a total quantity of the material, a sampling quantity of the material for examination, a quantity of inferior material, a report of inferior material, and a quantity of the material passing the examination.
3. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising adding additional information to the supplier database from the first, second, or an additional factory before step (3) if new information becomes available and to provide a warning message if the quality for a supplier falls below a predetermined level.
4. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein in the step (2), establishing the supplier data base comprises forming a quality display table for a supplier including:
  - quality of materials provided by the supplier; the number of different types of material provided by the supplier;
  - the number of times the supplier has provided inferior material; and
  - the quantity of materials the supplier has provided.
5. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein in the step (2), establishing the supplier database continues for a period of time to determine supplier quality over the period of time.

6. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:  
measuring a sampling quantity of a type of material from a supplier; and  
utilizing the quantities of the material received and the quantities of the material rejected  
to determine whether to reject or accept the sampling quantity.
7. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising an internet or  
intranet network communication system to connect the first and second incoming quality  
control departments.
8. (currently amended) A quality control system comprising:  
a measuring system for measuring quality of a plurality of different types materials  
from a plurality of suppliers at a first incoming quality control department of a first  
factory;  
a database for storing quality data from the measuring system for each supplier  
comprising: identification, the types of material measured, the quantities received, and  
the quantities rejected; and  
a retrieving module for retrieving the quality data using a supplier identification and  
type of material at a second incoming quality control department of a second factory the  
quality of the type of material from the supplier.
9. (currently amended) The system of claim 8, wherein the measuring system includes:  
a material category number, the material type, the supplier code, a total quantity of the  
material, a sampling quantity of the material for examination, a quantity of inferior  
material, a report of inferior material, and a quantity of the material passing the  
examination.
10. (currently amended) The system of claim 8, further comprising an additional  
incoming quality control department at an additional factory
11. (currently amended) The system of claim 8, wherein the database has a quality  
display table for each supplier including:  
quality of materials provided by the supplier; the number of different types of  
material provided by the supplier;  
the number of times the supplier has provided inferior material; and  
the quantity of materials the supplier has provided.

12. (currently amended) The system of claim 8, further comprising an additional incoming quality control department at an additional factory connected to the first and second incoming quality control departments at the first and second factories by an internet or intranet network communication system.
13. (currently amended) A quality control system comprising:
  - a measuring system for measuring quality of a plurality of different types materials from a plurality of suppliers at a first incoming quality control department of a first factory;
  - a database for storing quality data from the measuring system for each supplier comprising: identification, the types of material measured, the quantities received, and the quantities rejected;
  - an analyzing module for accessing the database;
  - a tabling module for organizing information to and from the database ; and
  - a retrieving module for retrieving the quality data using a supplier identification and type of material at a second incoming quality control department of a second factory the quality of the type of material from the supplier.
14. (currently amended) The system of claim 13, wherein the retrieving module is prompted by the analyzing module to search the database if there are newly-established quality data relating to an incoming material; and if such quality data are available, the tabling module displays a table by the searched quality data.
15. (currently amended) The system of claim 13 further comprising an internet or intranet network communication system connecting the first and second incoming quality control departments of the first and second factories.